SPIDER-MAN® UNMASKED

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Friendly Neighborhood SPIDER-MAN®

DAVID EATON DELL

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Friendly Neighborhood SPIDER-MAN

After three Mysterios converged on Midtown High to convert the school into a haunted house, Spider-Man, Flash Thompson, and the enigmatic school nurse, Miss Arrow, worked together to defeat the threat and rescue the children.

The last hallucinatory mists of the Mysterio trio had barely faded when Spider-Man made one of the biggest decisions in his life and turned against Tony Stark, a.k.a. Iron Man, and the United States government. And by joining Captain America's rebellion against the Superhuman Registration Act while his secret identity is already revealed to the world, Peter has put himself and his loved ones in a dangerous position—they are now fugitives from justice and prime targets for the government and its shadowy conspirators.

Meanwhile, school nurse Miss Arrow has her own plan for Peter Parker and it involves keeping him at Midtown High. She has already demonstrated the shocking ability to produce spikes from her wrists, but what else does she have up her sleeve?

TAKING WING part 1

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YES, ALEX, I JUST GOT MY SHIPMENT. I'M LOOKING AT A COPY RIGHT NOW. AND I HAVE TO SAY...

IT'S NOT WHAT I EXPECTED.

TWO-FACED

How Peter Parker Ruined My Life

by Deb Whitman

As told to Alex Almon

WHAT, YOUR NAME'S NOT BIG ENOUGH?

NO, ALEX, THAT'S ALL FINE. BUT THIS TITLE...AND THE PROMOTIONAL COPY ON THE COVER...

IT'S JUST TO GET PEOPLE TO BUY THE BOOK. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

WELL, I AM WORRIED. I STARTED FLIPPING THROUGH THE BOOK, AND THERE'S BEEN CHANGES SINCE THE MANUSCRIPT. THE TONE--

THE PUBLISHER FELT IT NEEDED PUNCHING UP, THAT'S ALL.

LOOK, WE CAN TALK ABOUT IT WHEN YOU COME TO TOWN FOR THE BOOK SIGNING. WHEN'S YOUR FLIGHT?

IN THREE HOURS. BUT I STILL--

GREAT, SEE YOU THEN. GOTTA GO, I'M ON DEADLINE.

KLIK

DAMMIT!

DEBORAH? IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT? I HEARD A CRASH--

IT'S FINE, MOM. EVERYTHING'S FINE. I WAS JUST... UPSET ABOUT SOMETHING. SORRY IF I WOKE YOU.

WELL, DON'T WORRY YOURSELF. IF SOMETHING ISN'T WORKING OUT, REMEMBER THE OLD SAYING--

"FOR EVERY DOOR THAT CLOSES, ANOTHER ONE OPENS."

SCHOOL ZONE

NOW REMEMBER: WE GO IN FAST AND CLEAN.

NO SHOOTING UNLESS WE GET RESISTANCE.

THEY'RE A BUNCH OF KIDS. HOW MUCH RESISTANCE COULD WE GET?

PDA

PS 108

MAYBE THE TEACHERS...

ONLY *ONE* TEACHER WE NEED T'WORRY ABOUT...

AND HE AIN'T HERE. BUT ONCE HE FINDS OUT THE KIDS'RE IN TROUBLE, HE *WILL* BE.

LEMME TAKE A WILD GUESS, BUB...

HOLY MOTHER OF--

YOU FIGURE OL' SPIDEY'LL COME RUNNING ONCE HE HEARS THERE'S A HOSTAGE SITUATION AT THE SCHOOL.

AT WHICH POINT YOU'LL TAKE HIM DOWN AND...WHAT? CASH IN ON THE REWARD THAT JAMESON IS OFFERING?

AIN'T YOU WORRIED ABOUT, OH...FELONY CHARGES? RECKLESS ENDANGERMENT OF KIDS AND ALL THAT STUFF?

AH, BUT YOU FIGURE JAMESON'S A POWERFUL GUY. HE'LL PULL STRINGS. HE'LL GET YOU OFF.

AND HEY... MEBBE YOU'RE RIGHT. WORKS IN THEORY.

BUT'CHA KNOW...SPEAKING OF GETTING GUYS OFF...

LEMME TELL YOU WHAT GETS ME OFF.

TOP OF THE LIST IS TAKING DOWN BOZOS LIKE YOU.

TAKE HIM!

WHA--? WHERE DID--?

YOU DON'T WANNA BE MESSING WITH THOSE.

THEY COULD GO OFF. *HURT* SOMEBODY.

CAN I HAVE YOUR GUN? THANKS.

SCREW THIS!

I DIDN'T SIGN ON TO BE FIGHTING NO WOLVERINE! THAT LUNATIC'LL *GUT* YOU SOON AS *LOOK* AT YOU!

AMC PDA

PS 108

FIGURES, FREAKIN' *MARVIN* HAS THE KEYS TO THE VAN.

JERK. THIS WHOLE THING WAS HIS IDEA.

WOLVERINE. GEEZ.

YOU'RE NOT THE *SHARPEST* TOOL IN THE SHED.

HERE YOU ARE, DEALING WITH WOLVERINE, AND HIS HYPERSENSITIVE SENSE OF SMELL...AND YOU DUMP SOMETHING WITH YOUR SCENT ON IT THAT HE CAN USE TO TRACK YOU.

THE BAD NEWS IS, YOU'RE NOT VERY BRIGHT.

GOOD NEWS IS...

YOU'RE NOT DEALING WITH WOLVERINE NOW. YOU'RE DEALING WITH THE PUNISHER.

SO THE SCENT THING IS MORE OR LESS IRRELEVANT.

EEYARRH

NO! NO! DON'T KILL ME! DON'T--

I'LL KILL YOU IF YOU DON'T STOP SHRIEKING LIKE A FIVE-YEAR-OLD GIRL.

NOW...I NEED TO KNOW IF I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION.

Y-YES! COMPLETE! *UNDIVIDED!*

GOOD.

ONE HUNDRED PER--

STOP TALKING.

I'M RELEASING YOU TO SERVE A HIGHER PURPOSE. I WANT YOU TO SPREAD THE WORD TO ALL YOUR FRIENDS.

HIT EVERY DIVE IN THE CITY. EVERY SCUM-WAD YOU MEET. TELL THEM ALL--

MIDTOWN HIGH IS *OFF-LIMITS.* THERE'S A SQUAD OF US GUARDING IT 24/7.

ANY MOTHS WHO GET DRAWN TO ITS FLAME ARE GOING TO GET BURNED. BADLY.

YOU DO THIS FOR ME, YOU GET TO WALK. BUT I'LL BE KEEPING AN EYE ON YOU.

YOU MESS UP, AND YOU'LL BE...*PUNISHED.* UNDERSTOOD?

UNDERSTOOD?

...

YOU CAN TALK NOW.

YESSIR. UNDERSTOOD, SIR.

GOOD.

I'LL DO IT! THE WHOLE THING! I SWEAR, I'LL...

HUNH?

I...IT... HE...

"SO, MR. PARKER... I UNDERSTAND THIS WAS YOUR LAST DAY."

"YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT, MISS ARROW. AND YOU CAN CALL ME PETER."

"DO YOU MIND IF I TELL YOU SOMETHING YOU MAY NOT WANT TO HEAR, MR. PARKER?"

KLIK

"I'M GETTING THE DISTINCT FEELING YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME, WHETHER I WANT TO HEAR IT OR NOT."

"GOOD INSTINCTS, MR. PARKER. SEE, HERE'S THE THING...

KLIK

"I THINK LEAVING THESE CHILDREN AT THIS POINT IN TIME IS INCREDIBLY SELFISH. EVEN *IRRESPONSIBLE.*"

"LOOK, I KNOW YOU'RE THE SCHOOL NURSE AND FIGURE YOU HAVE THE CURE FOR EVERYTHING, BUT WITH ALL DUE RESPECT..."

YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS.

I'M PERFECTLY SERIOUS.

LADY: LOOK AT THIS FACE. IT'S THE FACE THAT LAUNCHED A *THOUSAND* CRISES.

LOOK AROUND! WE JUST ALL BARELY SURVIVED BEING ATTACKED BY MYSTERIO...UH, MYSTERIOS. DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S *ENOUGH* FOR A LAST DAY?

WHO KNOWS WHAT THE *NEXT* DAY COULD BRING?

THAT'S EXACTLY MY POINT.

LOOK, THIS IS RIDIC--

NO ONE KNOWS WHAT THE NEXT DAY COULD BRING. *ANYTHING* COULD COME OUR WAY...

AND YOU WON'T BE HERE TO *PROTECT* US.

YOUR WIFE, YOUR AUNT...THEY'RE LOCKED AWAY IN THEIR IVORY TOWER. WE'RE HERE, EXPOSED. VULNERABLE.

I KNOW, BUT...THE PARENTS WANT ME OUT. THEY WON'T STOP--

OH, AND THE VILLAINS *WILL?*

THE PARENTS HAVEN'T THOUGHT IT THROUGH. BUT I HAD PLENTY OF TIME TO DO SO WHILE RUNNING FOR MY LIFE.

RIGHT NOW, FLASH AND ROGER ARE OUT FRONT, TALKING TO THE POLICE, GETTING THE KIDS BACK WITH THEIR FOLKS.

THEY'RE ALL BREATHING A SIGH OF RELIEF.

NOT ME, NO SIR. I'M HOLDING MY BREATH, BECAUSE IF NOT TOMORROW, THEN THE DAY AFTER OR THE DAY AFTER THAT...

MORE OPPONENTS WILL SHOW UP. SO YOU'RE NOT HERE. SO WHAT?

THEY ALL KNOW YOU HAVE AN EMOTIONAL ATTACHMENT TO THIS PLACE AND THE PEOPLE HERE. THEY'LL USE THAT AGAINST YOU.

THIS ISN'T A SCHOOL ANYMORE. IT'S A BUILDING FULL OF HOSTAGES, RIPE FOR THE PICKING WITH YOU GONE.

THEY'LL USE THE KIDS TO LURE YOU IN, TO--

OKAY, OKAY, YOU'VE MADE YOUR POINT.

BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO *DO* ABOUT IT.

YOU'RE A SMART GUY. *THINK* OF SOMETHING.

I HAVE *RIGHTS*, YOU KNOW!

YOU CAN'T KEEP ME HERE INDEFINITELY, WITHOUT A LAWYER! WITHOUT ANYTHING!

WHAT THE HELL'S *HAPPENED* TO THIS COUNTRY?!?

YOU HAPPENED, MR. TOOMES. YOU AND YOUR ILK.

SUPER CRIMINALS AND SUPER HEROES, THINKING YOU CAN TURN OUR CITIES INTO YOUR OWN PRIVATE BATTLEGROUNDS.

THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HAS HAD ENOUGH.

OH, REALLY. WELL, I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC.

MEWLING SHEEP, THE LOT OF THEM.

"SAVE US, OH MIGHTY HEROES! SAVE US FROM THE EVIL PLANS OF THOSE BEASTLY SUPER-VILLAINS!"

WEAK. THEY'RE ALL WEAK.

AND YOU PREY ON THE WEAK, DON'T YOU?

THAT'S NATURE'S WAY.

SPIDER-MAN ISN'T WEAK.

NONSENSE. HE'S THE WEAKEST ONE OF ALL.

NOT PHYSICALLY, NO. BUT MENTALLY. HE LACKS THE STRENGTH TO USE HIS POWERS TO THEIR GREATEST POTENTIAL.

YOU MEAN FOR PERSONAL GAIN.

WELL, OF COURSE. WHAT ELSE? TO HELP A WORLD THAT DESPISES HIM? SEEK APPROVAL FROM THOSE WHO HATE HIM? IT'S MASOCHISTIC. IT'S POINTLESS.

WEAK.

AND YET IN THE END, HE'S HAD THE LAST LAUGH ON YOU EVERY TIME.

THAT WILL CHANGE. IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME.

THEN PERHAPS THE TIME IS NOW.

EH...?

YOU MAY DESPISE US, MR. TOOMES, SINCE WE ARE YOUR CAPTORS.

AND WE DESPISE YOU AND ALL THAT YOU STAND FOR.

BUT SPIDER-MAN HAS BECOME...A **PROBLEM.** HE HAS TURNED AWAY FROM THE PATH OF THE LAW, THE SAME AS YOU.

HE IS NOW AN OUTLAW, SAME AS YOU.

THERE'S AN OLD SAYING...

IT TAKES A THIEF TO CATCH A THIEF.

IN THIS INSTANCE, MR. TOOMES, OUR INTERESTS COINCIDE. SO IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN COOPERATING AND DOING YOURSELF, AND YOUR FUTURE, A GREAT SERVICE...

...THEN THE VULTURE CAN FLY AGAIN.

PDA
PS-108
COME IN, MR...
REILLY, IS IT?
YES, SIR.
BEN REILLY.
PLEASURE, MR. REILLY. SO... I UNDERSTAND YOU'RE INTERESTED IN A TEACHING POSITION HERE.
VERY MUCH SO, YES.
"OKAY, SPIDER-MAN. YOU CALLED FOR HELP, AND THE CAVALRY--SUCH AS IT IS--HAS ARRIVED."

THANKS FOR COMING, BEAST. WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?

OTHERS?

YEAH, YOU KNOW...THE REST OF THE X-MEN.

OH. YES. WELL...ABOUT THE OTHERS.

YOU'RE, AH...LOOKING AT THE OTHERS. OR AT LEAST, WHO'S REPRESENTING THEM.

OHHH, I'M NOT LIKING THE SOUND OF THIS.

INDEED.

AS I'M SURE TONY STARK TOLD YOU, THE X-MEN ARE REMAINING NEUTRAL IN THIS...WAR THAT YOU'RE INVOLVED WITH.

WE ARE NOT CHANGING OUR STANCE. NOR, BECAUSE OF THAT, CAN WE OFFER YOU EITHER SANCTUARY OR BACKUP.

GREAT. THAT'S JUST *GREAT.*

DON'T YOU GUYS REALIZE THAT IT'S ALL GONE *WRONG?* THAT IF YOU DON'T GET OFF YOUR UNCANNY X-BUTTS, IT'S GOING TO GET EVEN WORSE?

LOOK, JUST BETWEEN US, I'M NOT SURE I AGREE WITH OUR POSITION. BUT IT IS WHAT IT IS.

WELL, THERE'S SOMETHING TO BE SAID FOR THE IRONY OF BEING DENIED SANCTUARY WHILE IN A CHURCH...ALBEIT A DECONSECRATED ONE.

HERE. YOU DIDN'T GET THIS FROM ME, UNDERSTAND?

A REMOTE? OKAY, WELL... THANKS, I GUESS.

ARE YOU GIVING ME A TV TOO, OR DO I JUST STAND OUTSIDE *P.C. RICHARDS* AND FLIP CHANNELS THROUGH THE WINDOW?

IT'S AN *IMAGE* PROJECTOR. IT WILL CHANGE YOUR APPEARANCE. I'VE USED IT TO "BLEND IN" WHEN REQUIRED.

I CAN'T MAKE YOUR LIFE EASY... BUT I CAN MAKE IT A LITTLE EASIER.

GOOD LUCK TO YOU.

HUNH!

WHAT? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU FOUND SOMETHING.

OHHHH, YEAH...

I THINK YOU CAN CALL A GIANT, BUSTED-UP COCOON SOMETHING.

TO YOU AS WELL. MAYBE SOONER THAN YOU THINK...WE'RE ALL GONNA NEED IT.

"SO, MR. REILLY, I UNDERSTAND YOUR EMPHASIS IS ON SCIENCE."

YES, SIR. AS YOU CAN SEE BY MY CREDENTIALS...

I'M AFRAID WE DON'T HAVE A SCIENCE SLOT. WE HAD A VACANCY, UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES THAT I ASSUME YOU KNOW...

I READ THE NEWS-PAPERS, *YES*, SIR.

BUT WE'VE FILLED THE POSITION.

WELL, I'M SORRY TO HAVE TAKEN UP YOUR--

WE *DO* HAPPEN TO HAVE ANOTHER VACANCY, IF YOU'RE INTERESTED.

WELL...*SURE!* I WANT TO HELP OUT WHEREVER AND HOWEVER I CAN. KIDS THESE DAYS, IT'S...

IT'S SORT OF LIKE WE'RE GUARDING THEM, ISN'T IT? THAT WE WANT TO BE THERE TO WATCH *OVER* THEM, MAKE THEIR LIVES BETTER.

I'M HAPPY TO HELP IN *WHATEVER* CAPACITY YOU NEED ME.

I LIKE YOUR *SPIRIT*, MR. REILLY. I WISH WE COULD CLONE YOU.

NO, YOU REALLY DON'T. SO...THE POSITION...?

AH, YES. YOU CAN START TOMORROW AS ASSISTANT PHYS-ED TEACHER. YOU'D BE WORKING FOR COACH FLASH THOMPSON.

Swell.

GREAT. FLASH THOMPSON. I'M WORKING FOR FLASH THOMPSON.

PETER PARKER, MASQUERADING AS YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD GYM TEACHER.

BUT THAT ARROW WOMAN WAS RIGHT. I CAN'T JUST ABANDON THE KIDS. NOT UNTIL I'M SURE THAT I'VE THROWN ENOUGH OF A SCARE INTO THE UNDERWORLD...

50¢

DAILY BUGLE

TWO FACED BY DEB WHITMAN

...THAT I'M SURE NO ONE IS COMING AROUND. PLUS THAT EMPTY COCOON... COULD IT POSSIBLY HAVE BEEN FROM...?

PULSE

SPIDER-FAN

OH, YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME!!!

NO WAY! NO FREAKING WAY!

"EXCLUSIVE! AN EXCERPT FROM 'TWO-FACED,' THE EXPLOSIVE TELL-ALL TOME BY PETER PARKER'S EX-GIRLFRIEND, DEB WHITMAN.

"READ HOW PARKER'S LIES, DECEIT AND DUPLICITY OVER HIS SPIDER-MAN IDENTITY..."

"...NEARLY DESTROYED THIS BATTERED YOUNG WOMAN'S ENTIRE LIFE. FOR EXCERPTS, TURN TO PAGE 3."

"I WAS NO ONE SPECIAL. JUST A SIMPLE SECRETARY FOR THE DEAN OF A COLLEGE. BUT LITTLE DID I SUSPECT THAT I WOULD BECOME A VICTIM IN PETER PARKER'S SADISTIC GAME OF 'NOW YOU SEE ME, NOW YOU DON'T.'

"WHAT SORT OF TWISTED REASONS HE MIGHT HAVE HAD FOR UNDERMINING MY SELF-WORTH, I COULDN'T BEGIN TO..."

MY GOD, DEB. HOW COULD YOU *DO* THIS TO ME?

DAILY BUGLE

WELL, LOOKEE HERE. SHE'S DOING AN IN-STORE BOOK SIGNING TODAY. MAYBE I'LL JUST SWING BY AND ASK HER.

SHE'S DOING A BOOK SIGNING. IF PARKER HAD ANY BRAINS, HE'D STAY AWAY.

BUT JUST AS I SAID, HE'S ALWAYS SEEKING APPROVAL FROM THOSE WHO HATE HIM. HE'LL SHOW UP THERE BECAUSE HE'S MASOCHISTIC. WEAK.

AND VULTURES FEAST ON THE WEAK.

TO BE CONTINUED...

Friendly Neighborhood SPIDER-MAIL

I'm back in the web again, my fellow Spider-Fans, and all riled up to answer this month's fan letters, but before I do, how about a warm, Friendly ***greeting to this arc's guest artists Scot Eaton, John Dell and Matt Milla! These guys will be bringing us three issues of Vulture and Deb Whitman goodness and don't be surprised if a few more familiar faces show up along the way.***

Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Team,

Before I get into the coolness that was *Friendly #12*, I have two bones to pick with y'all about one page in that issue: the letters page!

First of all, you dared print one of my letters on the same page as a letter from Paul Di Filippo. That is unbelievably offensive. It would be like comparing Peter David and Brian Bendis - someone is going to get their feelings hurt!

Secondly, Mr. O'Connor dared describe me as prosaic. I may not be challenging, I may be dull, I may be lacking excitement, wit or imagination, but I am fanciful and I won't have anyone say otherwise! (Specifically, I'm full of fancy for *Friendly!*)

Now that those sour issues have been addressed, I have to say: what the heck is going on?! How many Mysterios (Mysterioes? Mysterii?) are running around Midtown High? I count three, but given Mysterio's history and the fact that at least one of him is a teleporter, I wouldn't be surprised if there were no Mysterios at all and someone else was pulling the strings (come on, it's Echo, isn't it?).

Friendly continues to be the best of all Spider-titles. The creative team must be talented when you can guess what Spidey's thinking even when he's not in a scene. That is the feeling that I get when reading each issue, and it has been a long time since any creator has made it that easy to get inside Peter's head.

I still can't find a fault with *Friendly* (except for that awful letters page) and I hope I never do. Keep up the amazing, sensational, spectacular, and always *Friendly* work!

Adrian J. Watts
Melbourne, Australia

"Prosaic"? Perhaps I planned "proficient," "perceptive," "prescient" or "prolific" but performed a pedantic pratfall? What a preposterously perilous predicament! Or possibly a pugnacious premeditated poke to perturb a patron of this particular publication? Perish the perception! 'Pologies for perplexing you, pal!

Friendly team,

I was thrilled, natch, to see my letter in the latest issue. But certainly not as thrilled as I was by the issue itself! A fine blend of bold new developments with old continuity: isn't that what we're always striving for? Loved the ho-hum way Spidey yanked the principal out of the way of the anvil. That falling chunk of steel made me realize that Peter is the Road Runner, while all his enemies are mere Wile E. Coyotes!

Paul Di Filippo

Paul, we were thrilled that you'd written in to share your thoughts and were similarly tickled by the anvil gag. Clearly, Peter David has immaculate taste when it comes to "The Funny." We also love printing your letters because they apparently PESTER Adrian Watts.

Dear FNSMail,

'I Hate a Mystery' is definitely my favorite *Friendly* arc so far—and I haven't even read part 3 yet! I dug the references to *Airplane!* and *The Incredibles*. My little brother reads the series with me and he especially liked when Spidey made the Tobey Maguire joke.

Nauck does a very good job drawing three different Mysterios and David helped clear up any confusion by giving each of the bowl-heads a distinct way of speaking.

Ms. Arrow is a welcome addition to the Spideyverse, but don't think that just because you're giving Flash a love interest you're not going to explain why he has reverted back to his old, mean self!

I'm still a little unsure about #12's last page but I have full confidence that PAD can make it work. Thanks again for producing the best current Spider-book. I look forward to the next storyline.

Sincerely,
Daniel Fidler
Newton, Massachusetts

Surely there wasn't a reference to Airplane! ***in*** Friendly #12! ***What? There was? And stop calling you Shirley? Well, alright, Daniel, you're clearly well-versed in pop culture. As far as ol' Flash Thompson is concerned, the trouble is only beginning for Peter if this issue's development is any indication!***

Dear Spidey dudes,

I've been a fan of Spider-Man and his comics since the animated series appeared in 1994. I read the second part to "I Hate a Mystery" arc and it's great to see Quentin Beck back from the dead. I always liked the original Mysterio; the guy had a lot of wit and cunning genius. Anyway, I can't wait to read the conclusion.

I also wanted to make some suggestions for bringing other characters back. I would like to see Ben Reilly, Kaine, Dr. Ashley Kafka, and the Vulture to somehow be young again.

I know Ben is dead, but the guy had a lot of potential and he was the coolest character in Spidey history. So if it's possible, I'd like to see some kind of return of Ben Reilly. My friend and I are also making a special Spidey Halloween comic on the tenth anniversary of Ben Reilly's death. Plus, I have future plans to work for Marvel some day and hope to provide my ideas for future Spider-Man stories. For now, keep the legacy of Spider-Man running!

Ryan
Internet

Well, Ryan, we gave you a double helping this month with the return of both the Vulture (albeit not young) and Ben Reilly (albeit not the real one). So who says Marvel doesn't give the fans what they want (albeit a little distorted)?

Hey, Marvelites:

Issue 13 was yet another triumph. I especially enjoyed Todd Nauck's reunion with Peter David; I enjoyed their work for the Distinguished Competition, as well as Todd's series *Wildguard* over at that West Coast company, and as far as I'm concerned, Todd can come back to stay anytime he wants.

The main reason I'm writing, though, is for the benefit of Jonathan Stopek of Chicago, Illinois, who expressed a desire for more Peter David comics. Well, Jonathan, Peter doesn't write any other ongoings for Marvel, but he does have *Fallen Angel* at IDW and *Soulsearchers & Company* at Claypool, so you can still get your hat trick, and then some! (And hey, isn't that *Wonder Man* miniseries coming out in a few months?) Who says this ain't the Marvel Age of Company Cross-Promotion?

Facing Front,
Michael Pullmann
Bronx, NY

P.S. Okay, PAD, now where's my $10?

Peter? Is that you?

Well, "Michael," if that really is your name, allow us to do a little plugging of our own: Peter's Wonder Man ***miniseries is indeed coming out very soon. Check for it in your comic stores in a mere two weeks.***

Okay, PAD, now where's my ***$10?***

Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Mail,

I just finished reading the "I Hate A Mystery" arc, and I *loved* it! Three Mysterios running around, and one of them being the apparently dead Quentin Beck made for an absorbing and enjoyable story. I particularly liked the ending where Arrow showed her true colors. Brilliant.

I enjoyed all the mystical stuff that JMS did over in *ASM*, and I'm glad that Peter David has picked up on that and carried it over to *FNSM*. What with that, "The Other", and the futuristic stuff that's been going on with this title since its beginnings, I'd consider this to be the alternative Spidey title. And that's why we all love it!

Concerning Peter revealing his identity: I'd just like to say that while I don't entirely agree with the idea of Peter showing the whole world that he is Spidey, that doesn't mean that I'm not looking forward to the stories that will come from it, and where this decision will take our favorite Wall-Crawler. I agree with what some people have been saying in the letters page (e.g., Christopher Valli) that growth is important for the characters, as it helps to flesh them out and make them more real. And I also feel that it's a natural progression for our hero. I just hope he gets his old costume back soon, because I'm starting to miss the red-and-blue!

Thanks for doing what you do, and keep up the *amazing* work.

THWIIIIP!
John Turner
UK

Yes! Another reader we can somewhat satisfy with this issue, because as you can see, the red-and-blue costume is back (albeit only for three issues)!

Oh, and what's with you calling our work "amazing"? Surely, you mean "friendly," right? What? Stop calling you Shirley? Well, okay, John, but can't I call someone Shirley?

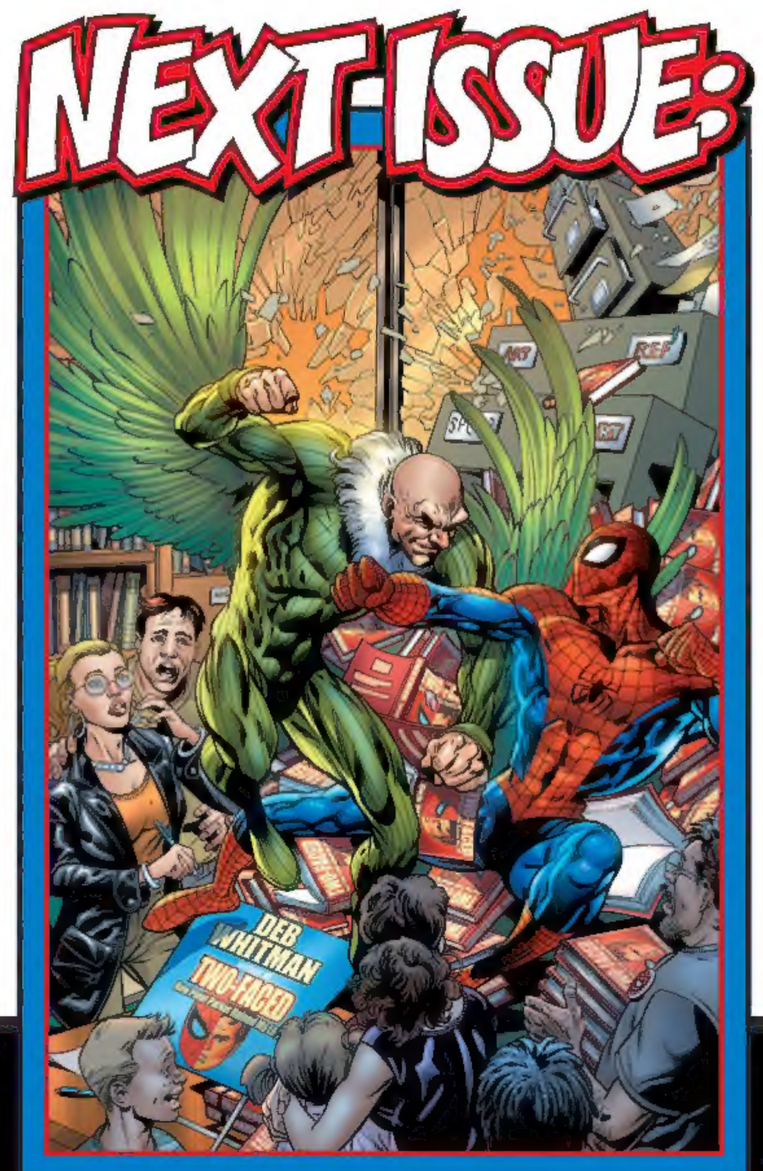
Hey Guys,

Just read *Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man #13*, and wow! So let's see... Miss Arrow... M. Arrow... MARROW! Talk about hiding something in plain sight! And I never saw it coming. Can't wait to see what her agenda is and what she has in store for Spidey. I'm loving the new *FNSM* (though I guess after a full year, it isn't quite so new anymore), so major props to Mr. David, Mr. Nauck, and everyone involved with this incredible title. Until Roger the Principal is revealed to actually be Batroc the Leaper, Make Mine Marvel!

Henry Gehringer
St. Clair Shores, MI

Dang! You got us! Well, there goes all the surprise out of our next arc, "Lost Principals: Affairs of a Leaping Heart!"

--Michael



"BATTLE OF THE BOOKS"

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